Financial irregularities in real estate mutual fund transactions

948. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in Real Estate Mutual Fund transactions more than 50 per cent of the funds are unaccounted which are used for funding real estate constructions and transactions of buying and selling;

(b) in what manner Government proposet o address this problem to ensure that only accounted money is used for construction and sale transactions;

(c) what are the main reasons for this malaise; and

(d) whether Government have any plans in the near future to take serious view of these financial irregularities and take any remedial measures to correct the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Scrutiny of income tax returns

949. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to abolish the present discretion-based system for selection of Income Tax returns for scrutiny;

(b) if so, whether he is aware that some Commissioners of Income Tax have granted permission for selection of cases for scrutiny to assessing officers under them contrary to a good decision; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps he is going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Finance Minister had announced in his Budget speech on 28/2/2003, the immediate abolition of discretion-based system for selection of cases for scrutiny to give effect to this announcement, the Central Board of

Direct Taxes had issued Instruction on 25.4.2003 accordingly. If any officer of the Department is found to be violating this Instruction, the remedial action shall be taken.

District Branch Offices of NABARD

950. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has set-up District Branch Offices in each district in all the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has opened District Development Manager Offices in majority of the districts in the country. The State-wise details of the number of district level offices set up by NABARD are given in Statement (See below).

The Opening of District Offices is reviewed annually and additional districts are considered for opening of these offices conforming to the criteria/norms.

Statement

State-wise details of District Level Offices of NABARD

s. No.	Name of State	Districts Covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh (20)	Adilabad (T), Ananthapur, Chittoor, Cuddappah (T), East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Khammam, Krishna, Kurnoor, Mahboobnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nellore, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Srikakulam, Vishakapatnam, Vizianagaram, Warangal.